

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-19 MC-02 DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25 /164 W

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P R 011147Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5291

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 11850

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, MARR, MOPS

SUBJ: THANOM PRESS CONFERENCE ON

AMBASSADOR UNGER/PM THANOM MEETING

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN HELD A NEWS  
CONFERENCE AUGUST 1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL  
USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM THANOM'S COMMENTS:

REPORTER: WHEN MR. UNGER CAME TO MEET YOU THIS MORNING,  
DID YOU DISCUSS THE SITUATION CONCERNING OUR COUNTRY:

THANOM: IT WAS ON THE MEETING AND CONSULTATIONS WHICH THE  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HAD WITH MR. MASTERS DURING THE  
ABSENCE OF MR. UNGER AND THREE QUESTIONS WE PUT TO HIM.

THE FIRST QUESTION IS: AFTER THE U .S. STOPS BOMBING  
IN CAMBODIA AFTER AUGUST 15 WHAT PLANS DOES IT HAVE TO HELP  
CAMBODIA? MR. UNGER CAME TODAY TO EXPLAIN THAT THE  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL HELP CAMBODIA POSSESS THE  
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STRENGTH TO PROTECT ITSELF, SUCH AS GIVING IT ARMAMENTS

INCLUDING PERSONNEL CARRIERS, TRUCKS, HEAVY CANNON, MACHINEGUNS, HELICOPTERS, AS WELL AS LANDING CRAFT AND MANY KINDS OF WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS. CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES ARE BEING TRAINED ALREADY, WITH AMERICA BEING IN CHARGE OF PLANS AND THAILAND COOPERATING IN TRAINING ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING TROOPS, NAVY UNITS AND AIRFORCEMEN, IN PREPARATION FOR THEM TO USE THE WEAPONS WHICH THE U.S. WILL TURN OVER TO CAMBODIA FOR USE IN ITS OWN DEFENSE. THESE ARE PREPARATIONS MADE FOR AID TO BE GIVEN AFTER AUG 15.

THE SECOND QUESTION WE ASKED IS: AFTER BOMBING OF CAMBODIA IS STOPPED AFTER AUGUST 15, WHAT CONSIDERATION WILL BE PAID TO AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED HERE IN THAILAND? REGARDING AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND, MR. UNGER SAID THAT THE OFFICIALS-- OF THE SUPREME COMMAND (FORWARD) AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS--HAVE BEEN HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMERICAN JUSMAG OFFICIALS FOR A LONG TIME AND AFTER AUGUST 15 CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL WILL BE PAID TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY OUGHT TO BE REDUCED. HE SAID THAT THEIR PRESENCE HERE, IN ADDITION TO HELPING CAMBODIA AT PRESENT, IS ALSO AS A GUARANTEE FOR THE CEASEFIRE IN INDOCHINA ON WHICH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ALREADY. THIS IS NOT ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND QUIET IN INDOCHINA BUT FOR THE SECURITY OF THAILAND ALSO, UNDER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THAILAND AND AMERICA THAT WAS CONCLUDED BETWEEN DEAN RUSK AND THANAT KHOMAN, AND UNDER SEATO. THE U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMIRAL MOORER, STATED AT A HEARING OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE THAT THAILAND IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THIS REGION, THAT IT IS THE MAINSTAY OF THIS REGION, AND SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO THAILAND THERE WOULD BE NO PEACE IN THIS REGION, THAT THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE EVERYWHERE. THESE ARE THE REASONS WHY THEY CONSIDER THAT GREAT AID MUST BE GIVEN TO THAILAND. THESE ARE STATEMENTS WHICH ALL OF YOU HAVE MOST PROBABLY HEARD OVER NEWS REPORTS BROADCAST OR READ IN FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS. FOR INSTANCE, MILITARY AID GIVEN US LAST YEAR WAS TO THE TOTAL OF 60 MILLION DOLLARS, AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE

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FORM OF A LONG TERM LOAN OF 15 MILLION DOLLARS. BOTH ADMIRAL MOORER AND THE DEFENSE SECRETARY ARE ENDEAVORING FOR THAILAND TO BE GIVEN MILITARY AID TO THE SAME EXTENT THIS YEAR, BUT FROM VOTING IN CONGRESS IT SEEMS AS IF IT MIGHT BE REDUCED TO SOME EXTENT.

THEREFORE, IN REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE STRENGTH OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN THAILAND, THAT

SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL AFTER AUGUST 15. BUT WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT THROUGHOUT UNDER ORDERS I ISSUED LONG AGO. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD THE U.S. WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY FORCES WE HAVE TOLD MR. UNGER THAT WE WOULD LIKE THE U.S. TO TURN OVER SOME OF ITS ARMAMENTS TO US, IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO SOME ARMAMENTS IT TURNED OVER TO SOUTH VIETNAM WHEN IT WITHDREW IT MILITARY FORCES FROM THAT COUNTRY. WE WOULD LIKE AID IN THAT FORM TO BE GIVEN AND FOR IT NOT TO BE CALCULATED AND DEDUCTED FROM THE TOTAL VALUE OF MILITARY AID IT WILL GIVE US PER YEAR.

ANOTHER SUBJECT DISCUSSED CONCERNING CAMBODIA, IN ADDITION TO MILITARY MATTERS, WAS THE POLITICAL SITUATION. THE U.S. WOULD LIKE FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD AND AGREEMENT REACHED IN CAMBODIA AMONG ALL FACTIONS, BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL OTHER FACTIONS. THE U.S. HAS ENDEAVORED TO HOLD TALKS WITH RUSSIA, WHICH IS GIVING AID TO SOME GROUPS OF RED CAMBODIANS. THOSE THAT ARE SUPPORTED AND GIVEN AID BY RED CHINA ARE GROUPS THAT SUPPORT SIHANOUK. THE U.S. IS TRYING TO HOLD TALKS WITH BOTH WORLD POWERS-- RUSSIA AND RED CHINA-- TO PERSUADE THEM TO HELP IN RESTORING PEACE TO CAMBODIA BY STOPPING GIVING FURTHER AID. UNGER

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FACTIONS IN CAMBODIA ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY NORTH VIETNAM, WHICH IS GIVING SUPPORT TO A FACTION IN LAOS ALSO. THE U.S. IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE THOSE TWO WORLD POWERS TO COOPERATE IN MEASURES TO RESTORE PEACE TO INDOCHINA. IN ADDITION, AMERICA WOULD LIKE COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ASEAN MEMBER NATIONS, TO HELP IN NEGOTIATIONS, IF POSSIBLE...THERE ARE SOME COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND WHICH MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP NEGOTIATE OR PERSUADE IT TO REDUCE THE SUPPORT IT IS GIVING TO OTHER FACTIONS IN LAOS, IN CAMBODIA, OR EVEN IN VIETNAM. THIS IS ANOTHER WAY THAT MIGHT HELP RESTORE PEACE MORE QUICKLY.

REPORTER: COULD YOU DISCLOSE THE VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, WHICH WAS CONSIDERED AT A MEETING HELD A FEW DAYS AGO? SECOND, AFTER AUGUST 15, SHOULD THE SITUATION BECOME EVEN MORE VIOLENT THAN ESTIMATED, WHAT ACTION WILL THE GOVERNMENT TAKE IN ADDITION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED STATING THAT IT WILL INCREASE INSPECTIONS AND GUARDS ALONG OUR BORDERS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES?

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THANOM: THIS CONCERNS THE SAME MATTER. THE U.S. WILL NOT WITHDRAW ITS AIRFORCE MIGHT IMMEDIATELY AFTER AUGUST 15; IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHETHER CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS REACHED ALREADY ARE ACHIEVING SATISFACTORY RESULTS OR NOT. OR SHOULD THE FIGHTING BECOME INCREASINGLY VIOLENT IT MIGHT USE ITS AIR MIGHT TO HELP AGAIN. EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE AID IN THE FORM OF BOMBING AFTER AUGUST 15, IT MIGHT GIVE AID IN THE FORM OF TRANSPORTING FOOD SUPPLIES AND WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS TO CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TROOPS. AS I SAID JUST NOW, THE U.S. WILL GIVE AID TO CAMBODIA IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS. IN REGARD TO THAILAND, WE HAVE INFORMED MR. UNGER THAT WE NEED INCREASED AID IN THE FORM OF WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY FROM DANGER FROM OUTSIDE AND FOR SUPPRESSION OF DANGER INSIDE OUR COUNTRY ALSO. THE DANGER FROM OUTSIDE MIGHT COME FROM THE DIRECTION OF CAMBODIA OR FROM THE DIRECTION OF LAOS, THEREFORE WE NEED MUCH MORE ARMAMENTS. WE ARE ABLE TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF OUR ARMED FORCES IN READINESS TO USE THOSE WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS. THESE ARE ADDITIONAL PREPARATIONS WE ARE MAKING FOR OUR OWN DEFENSE, IN ADDITION TO GREATLY INCREASING INSPECTION AND GUARD OF OUR BORDERS WITH

OTHER COUNTRIES. WE NEED MORE WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS IN ORDER THAT WE CAN USE OUR MILITARY STRENGTH IN FULL TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY.

REPORTER: AFTER TAKING STRICTER MEASURE TO GUARD OUR BORDERS WITH THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, AND AFTER WE OBTAIN INCREASED WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS FROM THE U.S., WILL WE NOT TAKE MORE DRASTIC ACTION?

THANOM: I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU ARE THINKING. YOU EVIDENTLY FEAR THAT WE WILL SEND COMBAT FORCES OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY. WE WILL NOT TAKE SUCH ACTION.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR STATEMENT REGARDING YOUR MEETING AND TALKS WITH MR. UNGER JUST NOW? I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR STATEMENT IN FULL.

THANOM: I HAVE FINISHED THE STATEMENT. MR. UNGER  
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HAS GIVEN ANSWERS TO ALL THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH WE DESIRED INFORMATION.

REPORTER: YOU HADN'T FINISHED YOUR STATEMENT REGARDING THE WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS WE ARE ASKING AMERICA TO GIVE US. WHAT WAS HIS ANSWER?

THANOM: IN REGARD TO WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS, MR. UNGER SAID THAT SOME OF THEM WILL BE TURNED OVER TO US, BUT NOT ALL THE WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STATIONED HERE WILL BE TURNED OVER TO US. SOME OF THEM MIGHT BE GIVEN, WHICH WE CONSIDER ARE NECESSARY AND WOULD BE OF GREAT USE FOR OUR COUNTRY, SUCH AS OV-10 PLANES WHICH OBTAIN EXCELLENT RESULTS IN SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISTS IN OUR COUNTRY AND FOR SUPPORT OF OUR GROUND FORCES. THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE GIVEN US. BUT HUGE PLANES SUCH AS B-52S, WOULD NOT BE OF ANY PRACTICAL USE TO US AT ALL.

REPORTER: REGARDING THAI TROOPS THAT ARE FIGHTING IN LAOS, SENATOR STUART SYMINGTON TOLD THE AMERICAN SENATE THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE FOR THEM TO BE BROUGHT BACK AND INCORPORATED IN THAI UNITS HERE. BUT THEY ARE BEING PAID AT A MUCH HIGHER RATE THAN WE PAY OUR REGULAR TROOPS.

THANOM: THOSE IRREGULARS ARE NOT MEN OF ANY OF OUR ARMED FORCES, NEITHER ARE THEY ATTACHED TO ANY OF OUR REGULAR MILITARY UNITS. WE CANNOT BRING THEM BACK HERE.

REPORTER: HE SAID THAT WAS INFORMATION GIVEN HIM  
BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

THANOM: NO SUCH STATEMENT WAS EVER MADE. I HAVE  
EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT THAT WE HAVE SENT NO TROOPS.  
I HAVE NEVER AT ANY TIME SAID THAT THEY ARE MEN FROM OUR  
REGULAR MILITARY UNITS.

NISSAI: THAT WAS AN ALLEGATION MADE BY SENATOR  
SYMINGTON.

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REPORTER: WHEN DID YOU MEET MR. UNGER?

THANOM: JUST NOW. AFTER MEETING HIM I CAME HERE.

REPORTER: WHAT TIME DID YOU MEET HIM?

THANOM : AT 9:40 A.M.

REPORTER: WAS THAI AMBASSADOR ANAND PANYARAJUN ALSO  
PRESENT AT THE MEETING?

THANOM : HE WAS PRESENT ALSO.

REPORTER: DID MR. UNGER COME TO GIVE YOU ANSWERS TO  
QUESTIONS PUT?

THANOM: YES.  
UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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